

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

B<sup>1</sup> 2. (Amended) A method of stimulating growth of nerve cells, which method comprises contacting nerve cells with a human Neural Plakophilin Related *Armadillo* Protein (hNPRAP) polypeptide having nerve growth stimulating activity in an amount effective to cause nerve cell growth, wherein the hNPRAP polypeptide comprises a C-terminal armadillo-like repeat and is selected from a full length hNPRAP and a biologically active hNPRAP analogue.

B 2 for 4. 4. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the growth of nerve cells results in neuronal regeneration.